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## 'Great resignation' reaches White House with staff turnover

By ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — New White House press secretary Karine Jean Pierre was delivering her third on-camera goodbye to a departing staffer in less than 24 hours when she quipped to reporters, "I promise we will have a press shop." She added: "Not everyone is leaving." It's a dynamic playing out across the White House complex this month — and more evidence that not even the White House is immune from what has been called "the great resignation" as employers struggle to fill vacancies and workers jump to new jobs at record rates. The administration is undergoing a period of unusually high staff turnover as President Joe Biden nears 18 months in office. Long hours, low morale and relatively low pay are taking a toll on both the ranks of the senior staff and the more numerous junior aides who keep the White House functioning. It's not unusual for staff to turn over at this point in a presidency, but the swiftness of the change has been stark at times: Two-thirds of the White House press shop, much of the COVID-19 response team, two of the deputy counsels to the president, even the staffer who manages the White House Twitter account are all leaving within a few weeks of each other.

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White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, on May 26, 2022.

Associated Press

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# 'Great resignation' reaches White House with staff turnover



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden arrive on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 30, 2022, after returning from Wilmington, Del.

Associated Press

## Continued from Front

Some of it is by design. As is customary, White House staff were told to leave by July or to wait to depart until after the November elections, according to current and former officials.

Still, the turnover, particularly within senior ranks, pales in comparison to the turbulent first year of President Donald Trump, who hired and dismissed staff at a record pace. Also, the Biden White House staffing was more stable than many predecessors in its earliest days, making the recent and upcoming exits more noticeable.

The full scale of the Biden turnover will not be clear until the end of the month, when the White House is required to submit its annual salary report to Congress. Biden aides insist the departures are not tied to the president's low poll numbers, but instead reflect a natural transition for staffers — some of whom also toiled long hours on the campaign — looking to improve their quality of life. The aides emphasized that

replacements have been secured for most of the departing staff and that no critical roles are going unfilled. "It's a normal time for this level of turnover in any administration," said White House spokesperson Emilie Simons. "Government service involves sacrifice, and staff often have young children or promising careers in the private sector they put on hold, or opportunities for advancement within the administration or through graduate school."

Many of the departing aides are heading to federal agencies, which have far deeper pockets than the smaller Executive Office of the President. They can often double their salary and substantially reduce their workload.

In many ways the departures echo a broader trend in the economy — which the Biden White House has championed — where a historically tight labor market has given workers abnormal leverage to seek stronger-paying jobs that are more compatible with their post-pandemic lifestyles. "We've seen these

historic levels of quitting," said Nick Bunker, director of economic research at the Indeed Hiring Lab. "We've also seen really rapid employment growth so that it's people sort of taking advantage of the situation, getting new jobs, getting higher wages. So I think it is from a worker point of view, pretty much broadly a positive story."

More than 4 million workers have been quitting their jobs each month over the past year, according to Labor Department data, accounting for almost 3% of all workers leaving jobs each month — most for other work opportunities.

"It's a worker's market right now," then-White House press secretary Jen Psaki said last year, months before leaving herself for a role at the news outlet MSNBC. "We know that. People are looking for more dependable benefits. They're looking for wages that are higher." The White House has bristled at the term "great resignation" and has tried to reframe it as what Bharat Ramamurti, the deputy director of the National Eco-

nomics Council, calls the "great upgrade."

Biden also expanded the staff when he entered the White House, owing in large part to the centralization of the federal COVID-19 response and climate policy within the West Wing. The 2021 report showed an average salary of about \$94,000. That's 40% higher than the country's median household income, but still less than what the well-credentialed staff could earn in the private sector.

"White House salaries tend to be well below the salaries that people have before they come into the White House," said Kevin Hassett, former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers during the Trump administration. "This follows naturally from the fact that a president can choose people who are at the top of their professions. So when people return to their outside profession, the salary likely increases for almost everybody."

Veterans of previous West Wings who serve in or are in contact with Biden administration officials say there is

a notable lack of joy across the White House complex. The pandemic has diminished some of the benefits of the job that typically make the demands of the work more bearable, they said.

"These aren't perks in the superficial sense, but they're moments that build your team, sharpen focus on the mission, and recharge your batteries," said Eric Schultz, principal deputy White House press secretary at the end of the Obama administration. "Nobody goes to the White House to coast, but the jobs are draining, so inspiration along the way can mean a lot."

The pandemic meant few birthday parties in the bowling alley in the bowels of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and curtailed the opportunity to give loved ones a tour of the historic workplace. In December, the White House was unable to hold staff holiday parties because of COVID-19, and travel is only just returning to pre-pandemic norms. For Biden's first year in office, most staff could not even stand on the South Lawn driveway to view the president arrive or depart on Marine One.

The COVID precautions around Biden himself, including testing for those who might encounter him daily, mean many staff members have few personal interactions with their boss. For some departing staff, a highlight of their time in the White House came when former President Barack Obama visited the White House and talked with staff on the anniversary of the Affordable Care Act. Aides said he spent almost five hours in the building and made a point of mingling with staff — in many cases spending more time with them than Biden has been able to.

Biden, aides said, has restarted one pre-pandemic tradition: accommodating departure photos for staffers and their families who are leaving the administration. □

## Interior phasing out plastic water bottles at national parks

By **MATTHEW DALY**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Interior Department said Wednesday it will phase out sales of plastic water bottles and other single-use products at national parks and on other public lands over the next decade, targeting a major source of U.S. pollution.

An order issued by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland calls for the department to reduce the purchase, sale and distribution of single-use plastic products and packaging on 480 million acres of federally managed lands, with a goal of phasing out the products by 2032. The order directs the department to identify alternatives to single-use plastics, such as compostable or biodegradable materials or 100% recycled materials.

"As the steward of the nation's public lands, including national parks and national wildlife refuges, and as the agency responsible for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats," the Interior Department is "uniquely positioned to do better for our Earth," Haaland said in a statement.

The order essentially reverses a 2017 Trump administration policy that prevented national parks from banning plastic water bottle sales. Only a fraction of



**A trash can overflows as people sit outside of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial by the Tidal Basin, Dec. 27, 2018, in Washington, during a partial government shutdown.**

the more than 400 national parks, but some of the most popular ones like the Grand Canyon, had implemented such a ban.

Environmental groups hailed the Biden administration's announcement, which advocates and some Democratic lawmakers have been urging for years.

"Our national parks, by definition, are protected areas — ones that Americans have loved for their natural beauty and history for over a century — and yet we have failed to protect them from plastic for far too long," said Christy Leavitt, plastics campaign director

for the conservation group Oceana.

Haaland's order "will curb millions of pounds of unnecessary disposable plastic in our national parks and other public lands, where it can end up polluting these special areas," Leavitt said. The group urged the National Park Service and other agencies to move swiftly to carry out changes in reducing single-use plastics well before 2032.

Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., also urged quicker action to address what he called the plastic pollution crisis. "With everyone — from park rangers to park visitors — doing their part we can get

this done before the decade has passed!" Merkley said in a statement.

Merkley, who chairs a Senate Appropriations subcommittee that oversees the Interior Department, is co-sponsor of a bill that would ban the sale of single-use plastic water bottles in national parks.

Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., who co-sponsored the bill in the House, hailed the Interior announcement as "a huge step forward in the effort to protect our environment and its creatures from the damage of single-use plastics."

Quigley, who is planning a visit to Yosemite National

Park, said he looks forward to learning how the park will implement the new rule. Oceana said a national poll conducted by Ipsos in November 2021 found that more than 80% of American voters would support a decision by the National Park Service to stop selling and distributing single-use plastics at national parks.

Haaland said the plastics order was especially important because less than 10% of plastics ever produced have been recycled, and U.S. recycling rates are falling as China and other countries have stopped accepting U.S. waste.

Interior-managed lands generated nearly 80,000 tons of municipal solid waste in fiscal year 2020, the department said, much of it plastics.

Of the more than 300 million tons of plastic produced every year for use in a wide variety of applications, at least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments, the department said.

Many marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, causing severe injuries or death, and plastic pollution threatens food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism and contributes to climate change, the department said. □

**Associated Press**

## Armed man arrested for threat to kill Justice Kavanaugh

By **MARK SHERMAN** and **MICHAEL BALSAMO**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A man carrying a gun, a knife and zip ties was arrested Wednesday near Justice Brett Kavanaugh's house in Maryland after threatening to kill the justice.

Nicholas John Roske of Simi Valley, California, who was identified in a criminal complaint charging him with the attempted murder of a Supreme Court justice, was dressed in black when he arrived by taxi just after 1

a.m. outside Kavanaugh's home in a Washington suburb.

Roske, 26, had a Glock 17 pistol, ammunition, a knife, zip ties, pepper spray, duct tape and other items that he told police he would use to break into Kavanaugh's house and kill him, according to a criminal complaint and affidavit filed in federal court in Maryland. Roske said he purchased the gun to kill Kavanaugh and that he also would kill himself, the affidavit said.

Roske told police he was

upset by a leaked draft opinion suggesting the Supreme Court is about to overrule *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark abortion case. He also said he was upset over the school massacre in Uvalde, Texas, and believed Kavanaugh would vote to loosen gun control laws, the affidavit said.

The court currently is weighing a challenge to New York's requirements for getting a permit to carry a gun in public, a case that could make it easier to be armed on the streets of New York



**Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh stands during a group photo at the Supreme Court in Washington, on April 23, 2021.**

**Associated Press**

and other large cities. When he got out of the taxi, Roske was spotted by two U.S. Marshals who are part

of round-the-clock security provided to the justices following the leak of the draft opinion last month. □

## Happy together: Orphaned turtles and kids who set them free

By **WAYNE PARRY**

**Associated Press**

**STONE HARBOR, N.J. (AP)**

— The circle of life was on vivid display Wednesday at the Jersey Shore in a way that even the youngest children could understand. Seventeen young turtles that had been raised from eggs retrieved from the smashed bodies of mothers killed on roads were released back into the wild by a class of kindergartners. It was part of a program that has saved thousands of turtles and returned them to the wild over the past 25 years. The turtles were either raised from the eggs of their dead mothers or were themselves rescued from roads, storm drains or other dangerous places over the years.

"It's a great community connection," said Lisa Ferguson, director of research and conservation at the Wetlands Institute, which runs the program along with Stockton University and Stone Harbor schools. "It showcases how conservation works, and that everyone has a part to play, from adults down to kindergarten students."

The turtle release took place during a frenzied



**A kindergarten student releases a turtle back into the wild at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, N.J., Wednesday, June 8, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

day of turtle activity. This is egg-laying season, and turtles come up out of the wetlands onto dry land to lay eggs, thus exposing themselves not only to natural predators, but also to the far more deadly threat of motor vehicles.

"We lose 550 adult females each year to road kills," Ferguson said of her area in the southern New Jersey marshlands near the ocean.

Moments after she spoke, Salvatore Volpe drove into the Institute's parking lot with a bleeding turtle on the floor of his car. He had been driving on the road that passes the facility when he saw a car strike a turtle that was crossing the road, clipping the edge of it and sending it flying. The turtle was injured, but not mortally, and Volpe took it to the Wetlands Institute for treatment.

Volpe said he has been fascinated with diamondback terrapins since moving to nearby Wildwood Crest in 2009.

"It's a real slaughter at this time of year," he said. "They just have no chance. I do what I can." Then he was off to shoo another turtle off the road before it could be struck by a car.

Aside from caring for injured live turtles, the Wetlands In-

stitute harvests eggs from females killed on the road and incubates them at 30 degrees Celsius, a temperature that will ensure they develop as females (the sex of these turtles is determined by their temperature as eggs, Ferguson said). Stockton also incubates eggs and cares for the turtles in the first year of their lives. When they have grown enough in their first year, they are deemed ready to be released into the wetlands surrounding the institute.

That's where the kids come in. Kindergartners from Stone Harbor schools get to know the turtles as they grow. They give them names, draw posters of them, and even bake and sell cookies to raise money for turtle conservation.

Wednesday morning, it was time to set them free. Some eagerly grasped the turtles from behind; others were more reticent to get up close and personal with squirming turtles and squishy mud, but each student seemed excited to see the turtles paddle away into the shallow water.

The program releases 150 to 200 turtles into the wild each year. □



**Naasón Joaquín García leads a service at his church "La Luz del Mundo" in Guadalajara, Mexico on Aug. 9, 2018.**

**Associated Press**

By **BRIAN MELLEY**

**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The leader of a Mexican megachurch faces more than 16 years in a California prison when sentenced Wednesday for sexually abusing three girls who were followers.

Naasón Joaquín García, 53, who is considered the "apostle" of Jesus Christ by his 5 million worldwide followers, had vigorously fought charges that included child rape, until abruptly accepting a plea deal on the eve of trial.

The La Luz del Mundo

## Mexican megachurch leader faces more than 16 years in prison

church leader pleaded guilty Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court to two counts of forcible oral copulation involving minors and one count of a lewd act upon a child who was 15.

Prosecutors said he used his spiritual influence to have sex with several female followers and was aided by others in the church who facilitated the abuse.

Church youth group leader Alondra Ocampo, who previously pleaded guilty to abusing the girls, was charged with directing teenage girls in skimpy outfits to perform "flirty" dances for García. She also conducted nude photo shoots for García in which the girls touched each other, ac-

ording to the charges. Ocampo told girls that if they rebuffed the wishes and desires of "the apostle," they were going against God, according to the charges.

García told the girls after they danced for him that a king could have mistresses and that "an apostle of God can never be judged for his actions," according to the charges against him. Ocampo was prepared to testify against him, her attorney Fred Thiagarajah said.

"She actively recruited and groomed girls for him," Thiagarajah said. "She would target girls and bring them into his inner fold. She was tasked with sexualizing these girls and facilitating

their abuse."

García had been scheduled to go on trial Monday on 19 counts that also included allegations of human trafficking to produce child pornography. A judge had thrown out four counts of extortion and sentencing enhancements for great bodily injury for lack of evidence.

Another female co-defendant who was a member of the church, Susana Medina Oaxaca, 27, pleaded guilty Friday to assault likely to cause great bodily injury, a misdemeanor.

Defense lawyers had said prosecutors were operating under a far-fetched legal theory that García used spiritual coercion for sexual pleasure. □

# Israeli minister races to salvage flailing coalition

By EMILY ROSE

Associated Press

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israel's justice minister says he will give the government one final chance to approve a contentious bill extending legal protections to West Bank settlers in a last-ditch effort to keep the fractured coalition in power.

Justice Minister Gideon Saar said in a series of TV interviews that he will resubmit the bill next Sunday, after the legislation failed to pass earlier this week. Several members of the coalition joined the opposition in defeating the bill.

Saar called on his fellow coalition members to get in line or to exit the government a scenario that would likely plunge the country into a fifth election in just three years.

"As long as they don't make order in their own party, as far as we are concerned, they aren't part of the coalition," he told Israel's Kan public broadcaster late Tuesday.

The bill was seen as a major test for the coalition, comprised of parties from across the political spectrum, and its defeat has



Israeli Minister of Justice Gideon Saar arrives for the first weekly cabinet meeting of the new government in Jerusalem, Sunday, June 20, 2021.

raised questions about the government's long-term viability.

Israeli media said that the renegade coalition lawmakers who didn't support the bill are being pressured to change their minds or resign to make way for those who would vote in favor.

Emergency regulations in place for decades have

created a separate legal system for Jewish settlers in the West Bank. It applies parts of Israeli law to them even though they live in occupied territory and not within sovereign Israeli land while Palestinians live under military rule, now in its sixth decade.

If the bill fails to pass again, Jewish settlers living there

could see their legal status thrown into question. Critics, including the Palestinians and three prominent human rights groups, have said the situation amounts to apartheid, an allegation Israel rejects as an assault on its legitimacy.

The coalition includes nationalistic parties that are strong supporters of the set-

lements, as well as dovish parties that oppose them. The alliance is the first in Israel's history to include an Arab party, the Islamist Ra'am, whose members abstained or opposed the bill on Monday.

Saar, who heads a small pro-settler party, directed much of his criticism at Ra'am. "From my perspective, Ra'am has not behaved like a party in the coalition and will pay a price for that," he told Channel 13 TV.

There was no indication as to whether Ra'am's members would change how they voted. Another coalition member who voted against the bill, Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi, said Wednesday she remained opposed.

The coalition was formed a year ago, bringing together eight parties that have little in common beyond their shared animosity to former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is now the opposition leader.

After a series of coalition defections, parliament is evenly divided 60-60 between the coalition and opposition. □

Associated Press

# Irish leader sees no UK will to end Brexit trade standoff

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The British government appears to have no political will to resolve its festering trade dispute with the European Union and risks endangering the hard-won peace in Northern Ireland, Irish Prime Minister Micheal Martin said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government said last month that it would pass a law to scrap parts of a trade treaty with the EU signed less than two years ago. The EU has threatened to retaliate, raising the specter of a trade war between the two major economic partners.

"I just simply do not detect a sustained political will on behalf of the U.K. government to settle this, to resolve this, because it without question can be

resolved," Martin told EU lawmakers in Strasbourg, France. The British government is expected to publish a draft law in the coming days to remove checks on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K. But there are concerns from legal experts that the move is unlawful, and the bill will face opposition in Parliament.

Britain says its unilateral move to breach the legally binding Brexit treaty is an insurance policy in case it can't reach an agreement with the 27-nation bloc to end their dispute over trade rules.

Martin said that instead of the British government trying to help fix things, "we have actually seen efforts to block agreements and introduce new problems."

British unionists in Northern Ireland the only part of the U.K. that shares a border with an EU member state, Martin's Ireland oppose the trade rules, which created a customs border in the Irish Sea.

When Britain left the European Union and its borderless free-trade zone, the two sides agreed to keep the Irish land border free of customs posts and other checks because an open border is a key pillar of the peace process that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland.

Instead, to protect the EU's single market, there are checks on some goods, such as meat and eggs, entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the U.K. The British unionists say the new checks have put a burden



Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin arrives to give a speech at the European Parliament, Wednesday, June 8, 2022 in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Associated Press

on businesses and frayed the bonds between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

Britain's Conservative government insists the rules also are undermining peace in Northern Ireland,

where they have caused a political crisis. The main unionist party is blocking the formation of a power-sharing government in Belfast, saying it won't take part until the trade rules are scrapped. □

# Train derailment in east Iran kills at least 22, injures 87

By **NASSER KARIMI**

**Associated Press**

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — A passenger train traveling through eastern Iran struck an excavator and nearly half its cars derailed before dawn on Wednesday, killing at least 22 people and injuring 87, officials said.

The derailment near the desert city of Tabas was the latest disaster to strike the Islamic Republic in recent weeks as Tehran struggles under U.S. sanctions and any return to its nuclear deal with world powers remains in doubt.

The train, operated by the state-run Islamic Republic Railway, carried some 350 people as it traveled from the town of Tabas, some 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Tehran, to the city of Yazd. The route had begun as an overnight train out of Iran's holy city of Mashhad.

Based on images after the crash, it appeared the train's locomotive passed the excavator and the later cars somehow hit the digger and caused the derailment, though authorities did not immediately



**In this photo provided by Iranian Red Crescent Society, rescuers work at the scene where a passenger train partially derailed near the desert city of Tabas in eastern Iran, Wednesday, June 8, 2022.**

explain how the disaster happened in the rural scrubland near a railway bridge.

"Passengers were bouncing in the car like balls in the air," one unnamed injured passenger told Iranian state television.

The state-run IRNA news agency gave the casualty figures, citing emergency officials.

Rescue teams with ambulances and helicopters arrived in the remote area where communication is poor.

Over a dozen people suffered critical injuries, with some transferred to local hospitals, officials said.

Aerial footage of the desert site of the disaster showed train cars on their side, with some rescuers running at the scene as they tried to

care for those injured. State TV later aired images from a hospital where the injured received treatment. One of those injured told the broadcaster they felt the train suddenly brake and then slow before the derailment.

The incident happened some 50 kilometers (30 miles) outside of Tabas.

The report said the crash is under investigation.

Initial reports suggested the train collided with an excavator near the track, though it wasn't immediately clear why an excavator would have been close to the train track in the dark. One official suggested it could have been part of a repair project.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi offered condolences over the crash and announced an investigation would be undertaken into its causes.

On Wednesday night, authorities ordered the arrest of six people allegedly involved in causing the crash, though they released no other information about why they were suspected. □

**Associated Press**

## Japan criticizes Russia for suspending fishing pact

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan on Wednesday criticized Russia's announcement that it is suspending an agreement allowing Japanese to fish in waters near disputed islands, as relations between the countries deteriorate over the war in Ukraine.

The fishing deal has been in place since 1998 and allows Japanese fishing boats to operate around the Russian-held Kurils, which Japan also claims and calls the Northern Territories, in exchange for payments from Japan based on catch quotas and other conditions negotiated annually.

Its suspension, apparently in response to Japan's

sanctions against Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine, raises concern about the safety of Japanese fishing boats in the area. Prior to the agreement, Russian authorities had seized and sometimes shot at Japanese boats.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said it was "regrettable that Russia one-sidedly announced it is suspending the cooperation in this manner." He criticized Moscow for blaming Japan's failure to fund unrelated development projects on Sakhalin, Russia's largest island in the Pacific and not part of the territory claimed by Tokyo.

Japan has provided development funds for Sakhalin for years as part of its efforts to improve ties with

Russia. Matsuno acknowledged that Tokyo had not made its latest payment for the Sakhalin projects, but it wasn't immediately clear if it was related to the sanctions.

Matsuno said Tokyo will pursue negotiations to ensure safe operations of Japanese boats under the pact. "We will do our utmost to protect the safety of the Japanese fishing operation," he said.

The area is a rich fishing ground for pollack, Okhotsk mackerel and octopus. The fishing safety pact is one of four fisheries agreements near the disputed waters. Negotiations on two others — one involving Russian salmon and another seaweed — were settled earlier this year, while



**Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno speaks during a press conference in Tokyo, Wednesday, June 8, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

a fourth deal to decide catch quotas in each other's economic waters is set for December.

The territorial dispute has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty formally ending their World War II hostilities. Russia has already scrapped peace treaty negotiations with Japan in response to the sanctions.

Also Wednesday, Japan's Defense Ministry said four suspected Russian fighter jets flew over the Sea of Japan toward Japanese airspace west of the island of Hokkaido on Tuesday night, causing Japan's Air Self-Defense Force to scramble its fighter jets.

They did not violate Japanese airspace, the ministry said in a statement. □

## Brazil police questioning suspect in Amazon disappearances

By **DIANE JEANTET** and **FABIANO MAISONNAVE**  
Associated Press

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — Brazilian police said Wednesday that they are questioning a suspect in the disappearance of a British journalist and an Indigenous affairs official who went missing in a remote part of the Amazon rainforest more than three days ago. Civil police in Amazonas state identified the suspect as 41-year-old Amarildo da Costa de Oliveira, also known as "Pelado," who was arrested for allegedly carrying a firearm without a permit, which is common practice in the region. Police didn't clarify why he is being treated as a suspect. Authorities have questioned four others since the investigation started, according to a separate statement from the state's public security secretariat. It said no arrest related to the disappearances has yet been made.

Dom Phillips, who has been a regular contributor to newspaper *The Guardian*, and Bruno Araújo Pereira, an employee of the Brazilian Indigenous affairs



British journalist Dom Phillips, right, and a Yanomami Indigenous man walk in Maloca Papiu village, Roraima state, Brazil, Nov. 2019.

agency with extensive experience in the region, were last seen early Sunday in the Sao Rafael community, according to the Univaja association of people in the Vale do Javari Indigenous territory. The two had been threatened on Saturday when a small group of men traveled by river to

the Indigenous territory's boundary and brandished firearms at a Univaja patrol, the association's president, Paulo Marubo, previously told *The Associated Press*. Phillips photographed the men at the time and the man known as Pelado was one of them, Marubo said. The two men were return-

ing by boat to the nearby city of Atalaia do Norte on Sunday morning, but never arrived. Indigenous leaders on the ground, family members and peers of Pereira and Phillips have expressed concern authorities' search efforts were slow to start, and remain insufficient. "The Brazilian state says it

has deployed a great task force in the region. This is not true," Eliesio Marubo, Univaja's legal advisor, said Tuesday. "They promised that, today, they would send a helicopter to fly over the area and it also didn't happen. Now it is 4 p.m., it was supposed to arrive at 2 p.m., and until now nothing. The fact is that we continue the search alone."

In her decision, Judge Jai-za Maria Pinto noted that she had ordered the Indigenous affairs agency to maintain protections in the region after 2019 case filed by Univaja reporting multiple attacks from criminals. But she said that despite that, the territory "has been maintained in a situation of low protection and supervision." There have been repeated shootouts between hunters, fishermen and official security agents in the area, which has the world's largest concentration of uncontacted Indigenous people. It is also a major route for cocaine produced on the Peruvian side of the border, then smuggled into Brazil to supply local cities or to be shipped to Europe. □

Associated Press

## Venezuelan leader, barred from U.S. summit, arrives in Turkey

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was welcomed in the Turkish capital on Wednesday just as the foreign minister of Russia, a key ally of the ostracized Latin American regime, was also visiting the city.

Maduro is on a Eurasian tour after being rebuffed by Washington, which decided not to invite him to the Summit of the Americas.

Turkey is one of a handful of places around the world Russia and Iran are other friendly states where Maduro is welcome amid U.S. sanctions on his country. Similarly, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also faces travel restrictions due to his country's war on Ukraine.

Lavrov arrived in Turkey, which like Russia borders

the Black Sea, two days after NATO members Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Montenegro reportedly refused to allow his plane to fly through their airspace to reach Serbia.

His official duties in Ankara a meeting with his Turkish counterpart took place at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's palace just hours before Maduro arrived at the same venue.



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, right, reviews a military honour guard with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during a welcome ceremony, in Ankara, Turkey, Wednesday, June 8, 2022.

Associated Press

There was no official word on whether the two men met. Turkey and Venezuela have deepened their ties in recent years, with trade rising to nearly \$850 million, according to Erdogan. Venezuela's gold trade with Turkey has risen as U.S. sanctions have cut off other sources of income for Caracas.

Erdogan told a news conference with Maduro that Turkey was against the "one-sided" sanctions on Venezuela. "We will always stand with the friendly and brotherly people of Venezuela," he said, adding that he hoped to visit Caracas next month.

Maduro thanked Turkey for its support during the COVID-19 pandemic and said the two countries had signed three agreements on banking, agriculture

and tourism.

Earlier, Maduro laid a wreath at the tomb of Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk before traveling to the palace, arriving in a limousine escorted by ceremonial cavalry.

Erdogan was the first Turkish president to visit Venezuela in 2018 while Maduro has traveled to Turkey on several occasions.

During one such stopover Maduro and his wife were criticized for dining in the expensive Salt Bae steak restaurant while many Venezuelans were struggling with poverty.

The Summit of the Americas meeting of regional leaders in Los Angeles is taking place June 7-to-10. The governments of Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua have been excluded from it by the United States. □

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## Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit

**NOORD—** Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

### Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.

### Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze



it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coco-

nut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabrita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & din-

ner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the center of the Plaza. Open till late.

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Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

### Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros. Parking up to two hours is free when shopping, dining or catching a movie at Paseo Herencia. Just present your purchase receipt at our parking cashier.

To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com)





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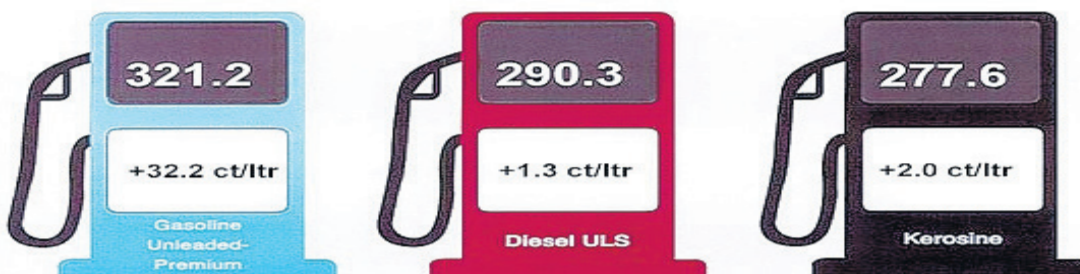


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**New prices for petroleum products announced**



ORANJESTAD - The Minister of Economic Affairs, Communications and Sustainable Development has announced that there will be changes in the prices for petroleum products starting the 8th of June 2022.

The price for Gasoline unleaded-premium has increased with 32,2 cents, making the total price 321,2 cents per liter.

Gasoil has an increase of 1,3 cents which makes the total price 290,3 cents per liter and Kerosene has an increase of 2,0 cents, making the total price 277,6 cents per liter.

All the prices are including BBO (turnover tax), BAZV (health tax) and BAVP. □

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**Continuation**

**Short history of the beginnings of baseball in Aruba**

**ORANJESTAD — Baseball was played on the island of Aruba in the 1930's, but only by United States expatriates working for LAGO and living inside the LAGO colony. Jim Bluejacket, the legendary US Indian who had played in two major league teams, worked for LAGO during 14 years and was a key factor in the growth of the popularity of the game in the colony. There is no record of Bluejacket ever playing outside the colony.**

In the '40s only the Lago Sports Park organized baseball championship games. The first teams to participate were Artraco, (Aruba Trading Co.), Esso Garage and Botica San Lucas. In 1945 Venezuelan employees of the Lago refinery participated under the name of "Cafenol", a very popular Venezuelan coffee brand. Two other groups of Venezuelan immigrants formed the teams "Cerveceria"(named after the iconic team Cerveceria Caracas), and "Venezuela", although not all members of these teams were Venezuelans. This was also the year that

the team sponsored by Roxy Café started to play as "Dodgers".

Dodgers became the dominant baseball powerhouse till the 1950s.

Other teams that entered the baseball scene in the late 1940s: Pepsi Cola (Oranjestad) and St. Thomas Boys (former students of St. Thomas College, Oranjestad). "Baby Ruth" in San Nicolas played initially under the name "Camel" and "Barnes` Ramblers" the only team consisting of Lago Colony players to participate in the Lago Sport Park championships. "Red Rock Cola" was formed in Oranjestad in 1950.

In 1952 the team Pepsi Cola became "Nesbitt's" and had players of seven countries, including two American expats from Lago Colony.

In 1950 a group of prominent members of the Aruba community founded the Amateur Baseball Bond of Aruba (ABBA) to give structure to the management of the sport and became the organizers of official championship games. While maintaining the existing teams in a league

that was referred to as A-class, ABBA established a B-class league in which the "Budweiser" and "Braves" played the first years.

By 1952 Aruba became a member of the International Amateur Baseball Association and fielded a team managed by Joe Proterra, (former pitcher of "Barnes` Ramblers"), that would play for the first time ever in the Amateur Baseball World Series that took place in Havana, Cuba in September. Surprisingly, Aruba won two of its six games and became the darling of the Havana fans. Nell Harms of the Aruban team was named the "Outstanding player of the week" for his performance against Honduras. He allowed just two hits, struck out 15 and hit the only homerun of the game. Joe Cambria, the famous scout for the Washington Senators offered him a contract, but Nel was not interested, but the next year, at the Amateur Baseball World Series in Caracas, Venezuela, Nel and Ruben Phillips did sign and in 1954 they played professional baseball the Georgia-Florida League and the



Texas-New Mexico League. They were the first Arubans to play professionally, but not the only ones.

During the games in Havana, contacts were made with the organizers of Little League Baseball in Cuba which eventually resulted in the introduction of Little League in Aruba. Little League of Aruba has been extremely successful: It has

produced many players who earned baseball scholarships at universities in the United States, a few who played professionally in the Netherlands and different countries in the Caribbean and five who reached the major leagues: Calvin Maduro, Eugene Kingsale, Radhames Dijkhoff, Sydney Ponson, and Xander Boggaerts one of the brightest stars of Boston Red Sox. □



## No, you're not imagining it — package sizes are shrinking

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP Business Writer

It's the inflation you're not supposed to see.

From toilet paper to yogurt and coffee to corn chips, manufacturers are quietly shrinking package sizes without lowering prices. It's dubbed "shrinkflation," and it's accelerating worldwide.

In the U.S., a small box of Kleenex now has 60 tissues; a few months ago, it had 65. Chobani Flips yogurts have shrunk from 5.3 ounces to 4.5 ounces. In the U.K., Nestle slimmed down its Nescafe Azera Americano coffee tins from 100 grams to 90 grams. In India, a bar of Vim dish soap has shrunk from 155 grams to 135 grams.

Shrinkflation isn't new, experts say. But it proliferates in times of high inflation as companies grapple with rising costs for ingredients, packaging, labor and transportation. Global consumer price inflation was up an estimated 7% in May, a pace that will likely continue through September, according to S&P Global.

"It comes in waves. We happen to be in a tidal wave at the moment because of inflation," said Edgar Dworsky, a consumer advocate and former assistant attorney general in Massachusetts who has documented shrinkflation on his Consumer World website for decades.

Dworsky began noticing smaller boxes in the cereal aisle last fall, and shrinkflation has ballooned from there. He can cite dozens of examples, from Cottonelle Ultra Clean Care toilet paper, which has shrunk from 340 sheets per roll to 312, to Folgers coffee, which downsized its 51-ounce container to 43.5 ounces but still says it will make up to 400 cups. (Folgers says it's using a new technology that results in lighter-weight beans.)

Dworsky said shrinkflation appeals to manufacturers because they know customers will notice price increases but won't keep track of net weights or small details, like the num-

Bottles of Gatorade are pictured, left, a 32 fluid ounce and 28 fluid ounce, in Glenside, Pa., Monday, June 6, 2022.



ber of sheets on a roll of toilet paper. Companies can also employ tricks to draw attention away from downsizing, like marking smaller packages with bright new labels that draw shoppers' eyes.

That's what Fritos did. Bags of Fritos Scoops marked "Party Size" used to be 18 ounces; some are still on sale at a grocery chain in Texas. But almost every other big chain is now advertising "Party Size" Fritos Scoops that are 15.5 ounces — and more expensive. PepsiCo didn't respond when asked about Fritos. But it did acknowledge the shrinking of Gatorade bottles. The company recently began phasing out 32-ounce bottles in favor of 28-ounce ones, which are tapered in the middle to make it easier to hold them. The changeover has been in the works for years and isn't related to the current economic climate, PepsiCo said. But it

didn't respond when asked why the 28-ounce version is more expensive.

Likewise, Kimberly-Clark — which makes both Cottonelle and Kleenex — didn't respond to requests for comment on the reduced package sizes. Proctor & Gamble Co. didn't respond when asked about Pantene Pro-V Curl Perfection conditioner, which downsized from 12 fluid ounces to 10.4 fluid ounces but still costs \$3.99. Earth's Best Organic Sunny Day Snack Bars went from eight bars per box to seven, but the price listed at multiple stores remains \$3.69. Hain Celestial Group, the brand's owner, didn't respond to an email seeking comment.

Some companies are straightforward about the changes. In Japan, snack maker Calbee Inc. announced 10% weight reductions — and 10% price increases — for many of its products in May, including

veggie chips and crispy edamame. The company blamed a sharp rise in the cost of raw materials.

Domino's Pizza announced in January it was shrinking the size of its 10-piece chicken wings to eight pieces for the same \$7.99 carryout price. Domino's cited the rising cost of chicken.

In India, "down-switching" — another term for shrinkflation — is mostly done in rural areas, where people are poorer and more price sensitive, said Byas Anand, head of corporate communications for Dabur India, a consumer care and food business. In cities, companies simply jack up prices.

"My company has been doing it openly for ages," Anand said.

Some customers who have noticed the downsizing are sharing examples on social media. Others say shrinkflation is causing them to change their shopping habits.

Alex Aspacher does a lot of the grocery shopping and meal planning for his family of four in Haskins, Ohio. He noticed when the one-pound package of sliced Swiss cheese he used to buy shrank to 12 ounces but kept its \$9.99 price tag. Now, he hunts for deals or buys a block of cheese and slices it himself.

Aspacher said he knew prices would rise when he started reading about higher wages for grocery workers. But the speed of the change — and the shrinking packages — have surprised him.

"I was prepared for it to a degree, but there hasn't been a limit to it so far," Aspacher said. "I hope we find that ceiling pretty soon."

Sometimes the trend can reverse. As inflation eases, competition might force manufacturers to lower their prices or reintroduce larger packages. But Dworsky says once a product has gotten smaller, it often stays that way.

"Upsizing is kind of rare," he said.

Hitendra Chaturvedi, a professor of supply chain management at Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business, said he has no doubt many companies are struggling with labor shortages and higher raw material costs.

But in some cases, companies' profits — or sales minus the cost of doing business — are also increasing exponentially, and Chaturvedi finds that troubling.

He points to Mondelez International, which took some heat this spring for shrinking the size of its Cadbury Dairy Milk bar in the U.K. without lowering the price. The company's operating income climbed 21% in 2021, but fell 15% in the first quarter as cost pressures grew. By comparison, PepsiCo's operating profit climbed 11% in 2021 and 128% in the first quarter.

"I'm not saying they're profiteering, but it smells like it," Chaturvedi said. "Are we using supply constraints as a weapon to make more money?" □

Associated Press

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 44 Sen-  
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forerunner 45 Narrow  
5 TV grouch shelf  
10 Golf feat 46 Church  
12 Without event  
aid  
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15 Luau strings  
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18 Green need  
20 Bill dispenser  
21 Shortly, in poems  
23 "— Not Unusual"  
24 Gator's cousin  
26 Prime  
28 Coffee, in slang  
29 Puts away  
31 TV alien  
32 Stick in the fridge  
36 Neatnik's bane  
39 — de la Cité  
40 News-caster Couric  
41 Spiny plant  
43 Insurance seller

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**  
1 Arrange  
2 17-syllable poem  
3 Snowy bird  
4 Bar choice  
5 Diamond Head setting  
6 Louver piece  
7 Hold  
8 Bening of "Bugsy"  
9 Gives more weapons to  
11 Gist  
17 Old hand  
19 Eastern "way"  
22 Artless  
24 Cut-and-paste art  
25 Proved false  
27 East, in Berlin  
28 Wolf's cousin  
30 Penny prez  
33 Pageant crown  
34 "The King"  
35 Oboe parts  
37 Crystal-tapping sound  
38 Head, to Henri  
42 Stick in a pack

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
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6-9

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-9 **CRYPTOQUOTE**  
R G L L N B D W W N W Q R D

A N E R D W Q Q R N B C T D T N F F

D H D A U T B . — X U B G F X X M E I  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: EVERYONE,  
EVERYWHERE IS INEXTRICABLY CONNECTED  
TO AND UTTERLY DEPENDENT UPON THE  
EXISTENCE OF THE SEA. — SYLVIA EARLE

# Sky high: Carbon dioxide levels in air spike past milestone



A man wades into the ocean at sunset on June 22, 2021, in Newport Beach, Calif.

Associated Press

By SETH BORENSTEIN

The amount of heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has shot past a key milestone - more than 50% higher than pre-industrial times - and is at levels not seen since millions of years ago when Earth was a hothouse ocean-inundated planet, federal scientists announced Friday. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said its long-time monitoring station at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, averaged 421 parts per million of carbon dioxide for the month of May, which is when the crucial greenhouse gas hits its yearly high. Before the industrial revolution in the late 19th century carbon dioxide levels were at 280 parts per million, scientists said, so humans have significantly changed the atmosphere. Some activists and scientists want a level of 350 parts per million. Industrial carbon dioxide emissions come from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Levels of the gas continue to rise, when they need to be falling, scientists say. This year's carbon dioxide level is nearly 1.9 ppm more

than a year ago, a slightly bigger jump than from May 2020 to May 2021.

"The world is trying to reduce emissions, and you just don't see it. In other words, if you're measuring the atmosphere, you're not seeing anything happening right now in terms of change," said NOAA climate scientist Pieter Tans, who tracks global greenhouse gas emissions for the agency.

Outside scientists said the numbers show a severe climate change problem.

"Watching these incremental but persistent increases in CO2 year-to-year is much like watching a train barrel down the track towards you in slow motion. It's terrifying," said University of Wisconsin-Madison climate scientist Andrea Dutton. "If we stay on the track with a plan to jump out of the way at the last minute, we may die of heat stroke out on the tracks before it even gets to us."

University of Illinois climate scientist Donald Wuebbles said without cuts in carbon pollution "we will see ever more damaging levels of climate change, more heat waves, more flooding,

more droughts, more large storms and higher sea levels."

The slowdown from the pandemic did cut global carbon emissions a bit in 2020, but they rebounded last year. Both changes were small compared to how much carbon dioxide is pumped into the atmosphere each year, especially considering that carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere hundreds to a thousand years, Tans said.

The world puts about 10 billion metric tons of carbon in the air each year, much of it gets drawn down by oceans and plants. That's why May is the peak for global carbon dioxide emissions. Plants in the northern hemisphere start sucking up more carbon dioxide in the summer as they grow.

NOAA said carbon dioxide levels are now about the same as 4.1 to 4.5 million years ago in the Pliocene era, when temperatures were 7 degrees (3.9 degrees Celsius) hotter and sea levels were 16 to 82 feet (5 to 25 meters) higher than now. South Florida, for example, was completely under water. These are conditions that human civilization has never known.

The reason it was much warmer and seas were higher millions of years ago at the same carbon dioxide level as now is that in the past the natural increase in carbon dioxide levels was far more gradual. With carbon sticking in the air hundreds of years, temperatures heated up over longer periods of time and stayed there. The Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets melted over time, raising sea levels tremendously and making Earth darker and reflecting less heat off the planet, Tans and other scientists said.

Scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography calculated levels a bit differently based on time and averaging, and put the May average at 420.8 ppm, slightly lower than NOAA's figure. □

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## EU lawmakers endorse ban on combustion-engine cars in 2035

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Parliament on Wednesday threw its weight behind a proposed ban on cars with a combustion engine in 2035, seeking to step up the fight against climate change through faster development of electric vehicles. The European Union assembly voted in Strasbourg, France to require automakers to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 100% by the middle of the next decade. The mandate would amount to a prohibition on the sale in the 27-nation EU of new cars powered by gasoline or diesel. EU lawmakers also endorsed a 55% reduction in CO2 from automobiles in 2030 compared with 2021. The move deepens an existing obligation on the car industry to lower CO2 discharges by 37.5% on average at the end of the decade compared to last year. Environmentalists hailed the parliament's decisions. Transport & Environment, a Brussels-based alliance, said the vote of-

ferred "a fighting chance of averting runaway climate change." The 2030 CO2-reduction target and ban on combustion engines in 2035 were proposed last year by the European Commission, the EU's executive arm. Cars account for around 12% of European emissions of greenhouse gases, which are blamed for increasingly frequent and intense heat waves, storms and floods tied to climate change. The governments of EU member nations need to give their verdicts in the coming weeks or months before a final EU agreement on the tougher car emission requirements is approved. The car law is being scrutinized as part of a package of EU draft climate legislation covering a range of other polluting industries. The EU plans to slash greenhouse gases by 55% in 2030 compared with 1990 rather than by just a previously agreed 40% over the period. □



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# Jeff Goldblum takes one more bite out of 'Jurassic World'

By **JAKE COYLE**  
AP Film Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — There is only one person who, in the middle of a massive dystopic dinosaur movie, can utter a line like "That's bananas" with just the right timing and inflection.

For almost three decades, off and on, Jeff Goldblum has played Dr. Ian Malcolm with particular Goldblumian panache. As the stylish chaos theorist of the "Jurassic Park" and "Jurassic World" films, Goldblum is voice of reason and comedy relief in one, an auger of nature's unpredictability who can't help marveling at seeing his theories in action, even if that poses immediate danger to himself. It's one of the 69-year-old actor's best-known characters. Yet in even big movies like "Jurassic Park" and "Independence Day," Goldblum has such a singular manner and much-imitated tempo that he's never been particularly defined by those roles. It's more that Goldblum, in putting his own idiosyncratic spin on them, marks the characters, rather than the other way around. Life finds a way in "Jurassic Park," and so does Goldblum.

In Colin Trevorrow's "Jurassic World: Dominion," which opens in theaters Thursday, Goldblum — along with original cast members Laura Dern and Sam Neill — returns to close out the franchise's second trilogy of films in a sprawling adventure set in a near future where dinosaurs have spread across the world, as has ecological imbalance and a plague of giant locusts.

For Goldblum, the son of a doctor and host of the Disney+ series "The World According to Jeff Goldblum," the subjects and themes of the movie dovetail with some of his own curiosities and interests in how we might, he says, "upgrade our stewardship of the planet." What does Goldblum, the movies' resident chaotician, think of our increasingly tumultuous times?

"I don't know anything about what I'm talking



Jeff Goldblum poses for a portrait to promote the film "Jurassic World Dominion" at the Universal Studios Lot in Los Angeles on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Associated Press

about. But let's utter the word 'entropy' and 'systems' and how things break down," Goldblum says, speaking from London. "Before the butterfly comes out of the chrysalis, the caterpillar has some convulsions, chaotic convulsions. But it's not death, necessarily. It's the onset of transformation."

Satisfied that he's perhaps arrived at a kernel of truth, Goldblum concludes, "Hey, what about that?"

Chaos and harmony feature prominently in most conversations with Goldblum, an ever-riffing, cosmically attuned raconteur. He tends to speak as if narrating his brain's inner-workings in real time, arriving now and then at ideas worth pausing to savor and existential epiphanies that delight him.

One question, for example, about whether his sons' names — River Joe and Charlie Ocean — suggest some ecological bent sends Goldblum on a jag

about ocean environmental health, fundraising for Oceana, the song "Moon River" (which Goldblum, an accomplished pianist, says his band might soon record), Carly Simon's "Let the River Run," the movie "Working Girl," Mark Harris' Mike Nichols biography and a white-water rafting trip on the Kern River.

"Water is life, isn't it?" says Goldblum. "If they ever wanted to drop the Goldblum and just go with River Joe, that sounds evocative to me, that sounds like a good character. Or Charlie Ocean. I like both of those. Nothing wrong with Goldblum, but if they want to change it, fine with me."

Either through experience (Goldblum's early films included two with the improvisational Robert Altman, "a dippy doodle of an artist," he says) or practice (Goldblum credits acting teacher Sandy Meisner with instilling in him "a continuity of digging"), Goldblum has arrived at his unique ca-

dence and perpetual state of curiosity.

"At the beginning of the day, I remind myself: free association, stream of consciousness, perceptual readiness and then openness," says Goldblum. "This whole business of acting and music seems to be, if nothing else, an invitation toward opening up. Opening yourself up in both directions. Not only to what's around you in reception but then in your giving back, reacting and offering something."

After co-starring in "Jurassic Park" and its 1997 sequel, "The Lost World," Goldblum returned to Ian Malcolm in 2018's "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" during which his character testifies to the U.S. Congress. Malcolm recommends letting the exploding volcano determine the fate of the dinosaurs on Isla Nublar. Goldblum relished it.

"I was full of juice," he says. "I was in this froth of fun, which I sometimes get in."

Trevorrow, who has co-written the trilogy and directed the first and third installments, first worked with Goldblum on a "Jurassic World" Super Bowl ad for Jeep. Goldblum wasn't what he expected.

"You think that he's purely improvisational and maybe even a loose canon," says Trevorrow. "But on this movie, I'd just see him walking out on the garden at the hotel we were staying in going over his lines again and again and coming in and delivering a very precise, considered performance." Production on "Jurassic World: Dominion" was halted in 2020 due to the pandemic. When shooting restarted, the studio rented out a hotel in England near Pinewood Studios for cast and crew. Goldblum would sometimes play the piano there with his castmates and Trevorrow — "musicales and hootenanny's of one kind or another," Goldblum says. Dern posted one video of her, Neill and Goldblum singing the Beatles' "Blackbird."

"He's a beautiful man," says Trevorrow. "We would have really thoughtful conversations about his perspective on where we're at. There was a depth to it all, honestly, when it comes to the experience of making the film and going through pandemic together." For the "Jurassic World: Dominion" cast and filmmakers, making a movie about nature's resistance to humankind's meddling during the pandemic took on real-world resonance. As in the movie, the world might be ending but Goldblum is still there keeping the spirits up. "What else can we do?" says Goldblum. "Being a Sandy Meisner devotee, I'm a romantic about the ensemble credo and synergy and, like this movie depicts, what educated, smart and deeply caring people can do — even a few of them — together at a crucial moment. They can even sometimes defeat the forces of ignorance, corruption and greed, and keep the homo sapiens ball moving along a little more. Maybe." □

# Simone Biles, other women seek \$1B-plus from FBI over Nassar

By ED WHITE

Associated Press

**DETROIT (AP)** — Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles and dozens of other women who say they were sexually assaulted by Larry Nassar are seeking more than \$1 billion from the FBI for failing to stop the sports doctor when the agency first received allegations against him, lawyers said Wednesday.

There's no dispute that FBI agents in 2015 knew that Nassar was accused of assaulting gymnasts, but they failed to act, leaving him free to continue to target young women and girls for more than a year. He pleaded guilty in 2017 and is serving decades in prison. "It is time for the FBI to be held accountable," said Maggie Nichols, a national champion gymnast at Oklahoma in 2017-19.

Under federal law, a government agency has six months to respond to the tort claims filed Wednesday. Lawsuits could follow, depending on the FBI's response.

The approximately 90 claimants include Biles, Aly Raisman and McKayla Maroney, all Olympic gold medalists, according to Manly, Stewart & Finaldi, a



United States gymnasts from left, Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney, Aly Raisman and Maggie Nichols, arrive to testify during a Senate Judiciary hearing about the Inspector General's report on the FBI's handling of the Larry Nassar investigation on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021, in Washington.

California law firm. Separately, 13 claims were filed by others in April.

"If the FBI had simply done its job, Nassar would have been stopped before he ever had the chance to abuse hundreds of girls, including me," said former University of Michigan gymnast Samantha Roy.

Indianapolis-based USA Gymnastics told local agents in 2015 that three gymnasts said they were as-

saulted by Nassar, a team doctor. But the FBI did not open a formal investigation or inform federal or state authorities in Michigan, according to the Justice Department's inspector general, an internal watchdog. Los Angeles agents in 2016 began a sexual tourism investigation against Nassar and interviewed several victims but also didn't alert Michigan authorities, the inspector general said.

Nassar wasn't arrested until the fall of 2016 during an investigation by police at Michigan State University, where he was a doctor. The Michigan attorney general's office ultimately handled the assault charges against Nassar, while federal prosecutors in Grand Rapids, Michigan, filed a child pornography case. The FBI declined to comment Wednesday on the former gymnasts' financial

claims, referring instead to remarks last year by FBI Director Christopher Wray, who acknowledged major mistakes.

"I'm especially sorry that there were people at the FBI who had their own chance to stop this monster back in 2015 and failed. And that's inexcusable," Wray told victims at a Senate hearing.

At that same hearing, Biles, widely considered to be the greatest gymnast of all time, said an "entire system" enabled the abuse. Maroney recalled "dead silence" when she talked to FBI agents about Nassar.

The Justice Department in May said that it would not pursue criminal charges against former agents who were accused of giving inaccurate or incomplete responses during the inspector general's investigation. Failures by federal law enforcers have led to major settlements, including \$127.5 million for families of those killed or injured in 2018 at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The FBI received a tip about five weeks before 17 people were killed, but the tip was never forwarded to the South Florida office. □

Associated Press

## Swanson beats Braves in arbitration, Duvall loses to Atlanta

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Short-stop Dansby Swanson beat the Braves in salary arbitration on Wednesday and outfielder Adam Duvall lost to Atlanta, leaving teams with a 6-3 advantage over players this year. Swanson was awarded \$10 million rather than the team's \$9.2 million offer by Jeanne Charles, Richard McNeill and Scott Buchheit, who heard arguments on Tuesday.

Duvall was given the Braves' \$9,275,000 offer rather than his \$10,275,000 request by Gary Kendellen, Keith Greenberg and Gil Vernon, who listened to arguments on Friday.

Swanson, 28, hit .248 last year, when he set career highs with 27 homers and 88 RBIs. He had a pair of

homers and three RBIs in the World Series against Houston, helping the Braves win their first title since 1995.

Swanson made \$6 million last season and is eligible for free agency after the World Series. He entered Wednesday with a .279 average, six homers and 26 RBIs.

Duvall led the NL with 113 RBIs last year for Miami and Atlanta, which acquired him on July 30. The 33-year-old hit .228 with 38 home runs during the season and had two homers and six RBIs in the World Series.

He also is eligible for free agency after this season and is hitting .199 with three homers and 18 RBIs this year.

Atlanta third baseman Austin Riley (\$3.95 million) and injured Braves reliever Luke Jackson (\$3.6 million) lost their cases previously, and pitcher Max Fried remains scheduled for a hearing.

No statistics or evidence from after March 1 are admissible other than contract and salary comparisons. The timing was set when Major League Baseball and the players' association agreed to the deal that ended the lockout.

Seattle second baseman/outfielder Adam Frazier (\$8 million) and Kansas City outfielder Andrew Benintendi (\$8.5 million) also won their cases earlier. St. Louis outfielder Tyler O'Neill (\$3.4 million), Miami right-hander Pablo López (\$2.45



Atlanta Braves' Dansby Swanson heads up the first-base line after hitting a single off Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Ryan Feltner in the second inning of a baseball game, Sunday, June 5, 2022, in Denver.

Associated Press

million) and Milwaukee right-hander Adrian Houser (\$2.425 million) lost. Arbitration hearings usu-

ally are held during the first three weeks of February but were delayed by the lockout. □

# AP Interview: Allyson Felix 'humbled' by rivals' praise



Allyson Felix, of United States races in a women's 400-meter heat at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.

Associated Press

By **ANDREW DAMPF**  
AP Sports Writer

**ROME (AP)** — As the most decorated female track athlete in the history of the Olympics, hardly a day goes by when Allyson Felix

isn't reminded of her long list of accomplishments. Introduce her by mentioning that huge haul of 11 Olympic medals and the 18 pieces of gold (mostly), silver and bronze that

make her the most decorated competitor — male or female — in the history of the athletics world championships, and she's hardly fazed.

Add in her one world indoors title to make for a nice, round total of 30 career medals after two decades at the top of her sport, and she still won't even blink.

But let a fellow competitor describe the impact that the American 200- and 400-meter runner has had on both track and field and advocacy for female athletes, and that gets Felix's attention.

"She's been an absolute legend," British world champion Dina Asher-Smith said at a news conference ahead of Thursday's Golden Gala Pietro Mennea,

which will mark the final Diamond League meet of the 36-year-old Felix's career.

With Felix sitting two seats over from her, Asher-Smith — who is a decade younger than Felix — went on to describe the American's "grace" and "dignity" and the effect of seeing Felix up close when she was a youth volunteer collecting athletes' discarded warmup suits off the track at the 2012 London Olympics when Felix won three golds.

"I've been a big fan for years and years and years," Asher-Smith said. "The first time I raced Allyson in 2015 I remember thinking, 'I'm a professional athlete now because I'm in a race with Allyson.'"

Asked later about Asher-

Smith's comments, Felix told The Associated Press that they made her "feel ancient."

"But Dina is so sweet. I feel just humbled listening to that," Felix added. "And I remember when I was in that position. And it doesn't seem like it's been that long, but it has. And it's just really special to hear words like that. And now I know that the sport is in really great hands, so I'm excited to watch them continue to just take it to new levels."

Felix, who announced in April that this will be her final season, is enjoying one final tour through Europe before she gets down to her last major meets — the U.S. trials later this month then (if she qualifies) the world championships in July.

Both the U.S. trials and worlds will be contested at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon. It's the first time the worlds will be held on U.S. soil.

"It's something that you hope that can help the sport and that people can pay attention to and realize this incredible thing that happens between the Olympic Games," Felix said. "So I really hope that people will take advantage of the opportunity to come out and to watch."

Felix isn't yet sure which event(s) she'll attempt to qualify for at trials. But she said she'd be happy just to race a mixed gender relay if that's what it comes down to.

"I don't necessarily even need one race, honestly," Felix said. "I've tried not to make that the focus of my year but obviously a mixed relay would be really fun. I'm just trying to get to top form to just be able to help if the team needs me."

In the meantime, Felix will be facing stiff competition in the 200 at the Stadio Olimpico.

Besides Asher-Smith, also entered are Elaine Thompson-Herah, the Jamaican who has swept the 100 and 200 titles at the past two Olympics, and Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas, who has won the 400 at two straight Olympics. □

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